

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of Power On Self Test resource conflict detection and reporting comprising the steps of:

 dynamically assigning resources to provide electronic access to devices physically attached to a computer system;

 reading the state of a flag indicative of a user-selected compatibility mode requiring at least partial reallocation of resources;

 if the flag is in a first state and one or more devices will become inaccessible due to the reallocation of resources, generating at least one message indicative of a resource conflict; and

 reallocating at least some of the resources according to the user-selected compatibility mode.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of dynamically assigning resources to provide electronic access to devices physically attached to a computer system comprises configuring at least one parallel AT attachment sub-system.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of dynamically assigning resources to provide electronic access to devices physically attached to a computer system comprises configuring at least one serial AT attachment sub-system.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of generating at least one message indicative of a resource conflict comprises generating at least one message indicating that

at least one device is inaccessible due to the reallocation of resources required by the user-selected compatibility mode.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of generating at least one message indicative of a resource conflict comprises generating the at least one message for a predetermined period of time.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein reallocating resources according to the user-selected compatibility mode comprises reconfiguring at least one parallel AT attachment sub-system.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein reallocating resources according to the user-selected compatibility mode comprises reconfiguring at least one serial AT attachment sub-system.

8. A software product including one or more computer executable instructions for performing a power on self test, the software product comprising:

first computer executable instructions that cause a computer to dynamically assign resources to provide electronic access to devices physically connected to the computer;

second computer executable instructions that cause a computer to read the state of a flag indicative of a user-selected compatibility mode requiring at least partial reallocation of resources;

third computer executable instructions that generate at least one message indicative of a resource conflict if the flag is in a first state and one or more devices will become inaccessible due to the reallocation of resources; and

fourth computer executable instructions that reallocate at least some resources according to the user-selected compatibility mode.

9. The software product of claim 8 wherein the third computer executable instructions that generate at least one message indicative of a resource conflict comprises instructions that generate at least one message indicating that at least one device is inaccessible due to the reallocation of resources required by the user-selected compatibility mode.

10. The software product of claim 8 wherein the third computer executable instructions that generate at least one message indicative of a resource conflict comprises instructions that generate the at least one message for a predetermined period of time.

11. The software product of claim 8 wherein the fourth computer executable instructions that reallocate at least some resources according to the user-selected compatibility mode comprises instructions that reconfigure at least one parallel AT attachment sub-system.

12. The software product of claim 8 wherein the fourth computer executable instructions that reallocate at least some resources according to the user-selected compatibility mode comprises instructions that reconfigure at least one serial AT attachment sub-system.

13. A computer system comprising:

a CPU,

a memory,

at least one input/output bus,

a board input/output system including logic for performing a power on self test, the power on self test logic comprising instructions that cause the CPU to dynamically assign resources to provide electronic access to devices physically connected to the at least one input/output bus, to read the state of a flag indicative of a user-selected compatibility mode requiring at least partial reallocation of resources, to generate at least one message indicative of a resource conflict if the flag is in a first state and one or more devices will become inaccessible due to the reallocation of resources, and to reallocate at least some resources according to the user-selected compatibility mode.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the instructions to generate at least one message indicative of a resource conflict comprises instructions that generate at least one message indicating that at least one device is inaccessible due to the reallocation of resources required by the user-selected compatibility mode.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein the instructions to generate at least one message indicative of a resource conflict comprises instructions that generate the at least one message for a predetermined period of time.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein the instructions that reallocate resources according to the user-selected compatibility mode comprises instructions that reconfigure at least one parallel AT attachment sub-system.

17. The system of claim 13 wherein the instructions that reallocate resources according to the user-selected compatibility mode comprises instructions that reconfigure at least one serial AT attachment sub-system.

18. A resource conflict detecting system comprising:

means for dynamically assigning resources to provide electronic access to devices physically attached to a computer system;

means for reading the state of a flag indicative of a user-selected compatibility mode requiring at least partial reallocation of resources;

means for determining if the flag is in a first state and one or more devices will become inaccessible due to the reallocation of resources and generating at least one message indicative of a resource conflict; and

means for reallocating at least some of the resources according to the user-selected compatibility mode.

19. The system of claim 18 further comprising a means for determining if the flag is in a second state and bypassing user resource conflict message generation.

20. The system of claim 18 further comprising means for reading compatibility mode set-up data.